

For Immediate Release

2025 GERMAN CURRENTS FILM FESTIVAL: FULL PROGRAM LINE-UP



The 19th Annual GERMAN CURRENTS Film Festival
will take place
Oct. 17th – 21st 2025

at the

**American Cinematheque (Aero Theatre & Los Feliz 3),
the Goethe-Institut, and the Gardena Cinema,
bringing award-winning German films & premieres to Los Angeles**

This year's vibrant selection of films is thought-provoking, tragic, and humorous. Audiences will encounter strong female leads as well as men in search of their own identity. Those drawn to historical narratives will discover fresh perspectives on pivotal moments in German history, while genre fans can look forward to a debut feature-length science fiction thriller.

"Almost like a common thread the motif of **FREEDOM** runs through this year's program: the freedom to be true to oneself, the individual's freedom within a community, the desire to break free from societal norms – for better or worse, and the courage to risk everything in the pursuit of freedom and justice", says Luisa Rath-John, Festival Director and Director of the Goethe-Institut Los Angeles.



In celebration of 35 years of German Unity, the LA premiere of **TWO TO ONE (Zwei zu Eins)** by Natja Brunckhorst will open the festival on October 17th at the American Cinematheque's Aero Theatre in Santa Monica. This German box office hit comedy follows childhood friends Maren (Sandra Hüller), Robert (Max Riemelt), and Volker (Ronald Zehrfeld), along with their small-town community, as they navigate the chaotic days between the fall of the Berlin Wall and German reunification. The essence of this story is "that you should share your strawberries," says **Ronald Zehrfeld**, who will join us in Los Angeles to share his personal view on the film and this unique moment in German history. An afterparty at the Aero Theatre will follow the screening.

If the first scene features a burning golf cart, the film is undoubtedly off to a good start. GERMAN CURRENTS presents the Southern California premiere of **PEACOCK (Pfau - Bin ich echt?)**, Austria's entry for the 98th Academy Awards © in the Best International Feature category. This "shrewd and darkly funny" (MovieJawn) satirical tragicomedy is written and directed by **Bernhard Wenger**, who will personally present his film at the Los Feliz 3.

German director **Mariko Minoguchi** will be our guest for the West Coast premiere of one episode of the award-winning German TV crime series **DIE ZEIT VERBRECHEN: DEZEMBER** at the Goethe-Institut Los Angeles.

The invite-only **Filmmaker Brunch** on Saturday, October 18, at the Goethe-Institut Los Angeles offers a unique opportunity for filmmakers and industry professionals to connect and engage in meaningful dialogue. The event will include a **moderated conversation** featuring our Festival guests Ronald Zehrfeld, Mariko Minoguchi and Bernhard Wenger, who will share insights into their recent projects and reflect on current trends within the European film landscape.

Other festival highlights include the LA premiere of the latest film by acclaimed director Andreas Dresen, **FROM HILDE, WITH LOVE (In Liebe, Eure Hilde)**, the true story of Hilde Coppi, a resistance fighter against the Nazi regime, and the West Coast premiere of Benjamin Pfohl's feature film debut, **JUPITER**, a gripping science-fiction-thriller that explores the psychology of cults and conspiracy narratives.

The West Coast premiere of **SAD JOKES** by director and actor Fabian Stumm, and the LA premiere of the dark satire debut **ANOTHER GERMAN TANK STORY** by Jannis Alexander Kiefer, offer two very different takes on German humor.

NEXT GENERATION SHORT TIGER 2025 returns to GERMAN CURRENTS with the US premiere of a curated selection of the most compelling current German short films.

And of course, our youngest fans are in for a treat: the LA premiere of **GREETINGS FROM MARS (Grüße vom Mars)** by Sarah Winkenstette. This beautiful story for the whole family about being an outsider and discovering that your differences might be your secret strength is presented as part of our popular Kids Matinee at the Goethe-Institut and in a private screening for school classes at the Gardena Cinema.

On the special occasion of Konrad Wolf's 100th birthday on October 20th, GERMAN CURRENTS, with the support of the Defa Film Library at UMass Amherst, will present a retrospective screening of his DEFA classic **I WAS NINETEEN (Ich war neunzehn)**.

The GERMAN CURRENTS Film Festival 2025 is a co-production of the [Goethe-Institut Los Angeles](#) and the [American Cinematheque](#), with the support of The Friends of Goethe, [ELMA](#), [Condor](#), the [Austrian Consulate General in Los Angeles](#), [go-international](#), [Tupetz Wine Connection](#), [Paulaner USA](#), [Paulaner Sunset](#), [Villa Aurora & Thomas Mann House e.V.](#), the [German Film Office](#), our media partners [Deutsche Welle](#), [KPFK Radio](#), [Campus Circle](#), our educational outreach partners [Creating Creators](#), and in cooperation with the [German Consulate General in Los Angeles](#).

The festival takes place at the following locations

THE AERO THEATRE	1328 Montana Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90403
LOS FELIZ 3	1822 N Vermont Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90027
GOETHE-INSTITUT LOS ANGELES	1901 West 7 th St. Suite AB, Los Angeles, CA 90057
GARDENA CINEMA	14948 Crenshaw Blvd, Gardena, CA 90249

All public screenings are free-of-charge, reservation is required: www.germancurrents.com

For more information, please visit: www.germancurrents.com, www.facebook.com/germancurrents

GERMAN CURRENTS 2025 FESTIVAL LINE-UP

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17th @ THE AERO THEATRE

7:00 PM Opening Night Remarks and Screening followed by Reception

TWO TO ONE | ZWEI ZU EINS

OPENING NIGHT | LA PREMIERE | IN PERSON – ACTOR RONALD ZEHRFELD

Dir. Natja Brunckhorst . Germany (2024) 116 min. DCP Projection. German/English with English subtitles

Summer 1990, Halberstadt, East Germany: The Berlin Wall has fallen, and the country is filled with uncertainty over what lies ahead. In a major step toward reunification, East German Marks can be exchanged for West German ones at a rate of two to one, giving citizens mere days to exchange their currency before the old bank notes become worthless. When three friends, Maren (Sandra Hüller), Robert (Max Riemelt), and Volker (Ronald Zehrfeld), stumble upon the vault near Halberstadt, where the old notes are being stored, they stuff their backpacks full of cash and hatch an intricate plan to put the soon-to-be worthless money into circulation. The group's plan seems fool-proof until notes that never existed in the GDR begin to circulate.

Writer-director Natja Brunckhorst spins the real events behind the “treasure of Halberstadt” into a crowd-pleasing tragicomedy adventure blending comedy, reflections on friendship, societal resilience, and community.

Natja Brunckhorst was born in Berlin and debuted as teen lead actress in Uli Edel's “Christiane F. – We Children from Bahnhof Zoo” (1981). In 2000, she began a second career as a screenwriter in addition to her work as an actress, receiving the German Film Award for Best Screenplay for the feature film “Never Mind the Wall.” In 2020, she stepped behind the camera for her feature film directorial debut with the relationship drama “Alles in bester Ordnung” (2021), based on her own screenplay. The film earned her the Best Director Award at the Festival of German Films in Ludwigshafen. “Zwei zu Eins,” her second feature film as writer and director, opened the Munich Film Festival in 2024. Natja Brunckhorst lives and works in Hamburg.

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS:

Glasgow Film Festival 2025 2nd place: Audience Award

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th @ GOETHE-INSTITUT

12:30 PM Screening of

DIE ZEIT VERBRECHEN: DEZEMBER

WEST COAST PREMIERE | IN PERSON - WRITER-DIRECTOR MARIKO MINOGUCHI

Dir. Mariko Minoguchi. Germany (2024) 55 min. DCP Projection. German/English with English Subtitles

For 18-year-old Tim, a night out with friends at their favorite club offers a well-deserved break following his recent move with his family to another town. In the midst of all the partying, where the group of boys have too much to drink, Tim loses sight of his friends, and unfortunately his ride home. What follows is a series of encounters with various officials, homeowners near the club, and the police that will lead to a tragic outcome.

Directed by Filmmaker Mariko Minoguchi, DIE ZEIT VERBRECHEN: DEZEMBER is the first episode in the 4-part limited series based on the true crime podcast of the same name produced by the German weekly newspaper Die Zeit. The series discusses true crime cases, researched and discussed by long-time crime reporter Sabine Rückert and other Zeit journalists.

This event is presented with the support of the German Film Office as part of the 2025 "Face to Face with German Films" campaign, which highlights rising stars in the German film world. Director Mariko Minoguchi is one of this year's ambassadors.

Mariko Minoguchi was born in Munich, Germany. She directed her first short film MAYBE at the age of 18 and went on to gain experience in various film productions. In 2010 she co-founded the production company Trimafilm with Trini Götze. Her feature film debut as a director, MEIN ENDE. DEIN ANFANG. premiered at the Munich Film Festival, was part of the first feature competition at the BFI Film Festival and won several awards, including the German Film Critics Association's awards for Best Debut Film and Best Screenplay. In collaboration with director Tim Fehlbaum, she wrote the screenplay for THE COLONY, which premiered at the Berlinale in 2021 and reached number 1 on the US Netflix charts. The series ZEIT VERBRECHEN, of which she was a co-creator, director and writer for the first film DEZEMBER, was part of the Berlinale Panorama 2025.

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS:

Grimme-Preis 2025 Nominee in Fiction Category,

Deutscher Schauspielpreis 2024 Ensemble-Award, Best Newcomer (Nominated) - Samuel Benito,

Deutsches FernsehKrimi-Festival 2024 Crime Series of the Year Award,

TeleVisionale - Film- und Serienfestival 2024 Nominee - German Series, Winner - Serienpreis der Studierenden-Jury

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th @ LOS FELIZ 3

4:00 PM Screening of

**FROM HILDE, WITH LOVE | IN LIEBE, EURE HILDE
LA PREMIERE**

Dir. Andreas Dresen. Germany (2024) 125 min. DCP Projection. German with English Subtitles

Berlin, 1942: 22-year-old physician's assistant Hilde (Liv Lisa Fries) is madly in love with Hans (Johannes Hegemann) and joyfully pregnant. But amid their passion, there is grave danger – the couple belongs to the “Red Orchestra,” a group of anti-fascists aiding the Soviet Union against the Nazis. When the group is arrested by the Gestapo, Hilde is sent to prison to await trial, where a guilty verdict means certain death. Giving birth to her son while in custody, Hilde reflects on her life and finds a new, quiet, inspirational strength as she faces the ultimate test of love and courage.

Laila Stieler draws from historical accounts to craft a compelling screenplay that sheds light on the life of the real Hilde and Hans Coppi. Acclaimed auteur Andreas Dresen masterfully directs Fries' powerful award-winning portrayal of Coppi to create a portrait of a woman driven by love, resistance, and resilience.

Andreas Dresen was born in 1963 in Gera, East Germany and began work as a sound engineer before completing a traineeship at the DEFA Studio for Feature Film. Dresen studied Directing at the "Konrad Wolf" University of Film & Television in Potsdam-Babelsberg, and since 1992, works as a writer and director for film, TV and theater. A selection of his award-winning films includes: STILLES LAND (1992), NACHTGESTALTEN (1998), HALBE TREPPE (2001), WILLENBROCK (2004), SOMMER VORM BALKON (2005), WOLKE 9 (2008), HALT AUF FREIER STRECKE (2011), ALS WIR TRÄUMTEN (2015). THE LEGEND OF TIMM THALER (2017). GUNDERMANN (2018), RABIYE KURNAZ vs. GEORGE W. BUSH (2022), and IN LIEBE, EURE HILDE (2024).

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS:

German Film Awards 2025 Winner: Best Actress, Best Film (Bronze), Nominee: Best Director, Best Costume Design, Best Screenplay, Best Make-Up, Best Supporting Actor

Günter Rohrbach Filmpreis 2024 Best Acting

Filmkunstmesse Leipzig 2024 Gilde Filmpreis, Best Film (national)

HEIMAT Europa Filmfestspiele 2024 Audience Award

Filmkunstfest MV 2024 Newcomer award Achievement in Acting, Award for Best Overall Acting Performance, Best Feature Film - Der fliegende Ochse

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th @ LOS FELIZ 3

7:00 PM Screening of

PEACOCK | PFAU – BIN ICH ECHT?

SOCAL PREMIERE | IN PERSON – WRITER-DIRECTOR BERNHARD WENGER

Dir. Bernhard Wenger. Austria/Germany (2024) 102 min. DCP Projection. German/English with English Subtitles

At MyCompanion, the cultured and confident Matthias (Albrecht Schuch) is available – for a reasonable fee – to fill any social role you desire. Handsome, well-mannered, and the ideal companion for all social situations, Matthias plays all roles from ‘the perfect son’ to the ‘enlightened boyfriend’, or even ‘pilot dad’ to impress your classmates at Bring Your Parent to School Day. But while Matthias is at the top of his professional game, his relationship with his partner Sophia (Julia Franz Richter) and personal life begin to crumble as he detaches from his own identity and burrows deeper into his fictitious lives. Can Matthias dive deep enough within himself to find the answer to who he really is? Schuch’s sincere performance and at times deadpan comic timing embody the tension and desperation within Matthias as he navigates through his many lives. Wenger’s multi-award-winning debut feature is a biting and hilarious social satire about the masks we wear in the pursuit of human connection.

Bernhard Wenger was born 1992 in Salzburg, Austria. He currently lives in Vienna, where he studied directing at the Vienna Film Academy. He loves to work with subtle, odd and visual humor. His short film EXCUSE ME, I'M LOOKING FOR THE PING-PONG ROOM AND MY GIRLFRIEND was awarded Best Short Film at the Austrian Film Awards 2019. PEACOCK, his debut feature film was developed in the Cinéfondation Residence of the 73rd Festival de Cannes 2020, and premiered at the 81st Venice Film Festival 2024. Austria’s Official submission to the 98th Academy Awards® – BEST INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS:

Venice Film Festival 2024 Winner: Award Bisato d'oro for Best Director, Award of the FAI Fondation Persona Ambiente Lavoro, Settimana Internazionale della Critica,

Stockholm IFF 2024 Best Debut Feature

Les Arcs Film Festival 2024 Audience Award, Youth Jury Prize - Special Mention

Dublin IFF 2025 Dublin Film Critics Circle Award: Best Actor Albrecht Schuch

Festival International Music & Cinema Marseille 2025 Best Directing

Independent Film Festival Boston 2025 Audience Award

Bunte 2025 New Faces Award for Best Debut Film

Cinéma Européen Festival Vannes 2025 Best Feature Film

Austrian Film Award 2025 Best Actor: Albrecht Schuch

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th @ LOS FELIZ 3

10:00PM Screening of

JUPITER
WEST COAST PREMIERE

Dir. Benjamin Pfohl, Germany (2023) 101 min. DCP Projection. German with English Subtitles

For 14-year-old Lea (Mariella Nauman) and her family, the arrival of the comet Calypso promises more than the chance to view the rare celestial body. Disillusioned with society and failing to find treatment for her younger brother Paul's (Henry Kofahl) severe Autism, Lea's parents, Thomas (Andreas Doehler) and Barbara (Laura Tonke), become enmeshed in a cosmic sect whose guru (Ulrich Matthes) promises that Calypso will transport them to salvation on Jupiter. To prepare for their Journey, Lea's family joins fellow members at a secluded mountain retreat, where, through a series of flashbacks, Lea's memories gradually reveal her family's struggle for a place in this world. Although she initially finds peace in this secluded place, a shocking discovery forces Lea to decide whether to follow her parents or go her own way, facing the obstacles of life on Earth on her own. Cinematographer Tim Kuhn captures newcomer Nauman's stunning portrayal of Lea and her struggle for independence with haunting, almost otherworldly visuals in Pfohl's award-winning sci-fi dystopian thriller debut.

Benjamin Pfohl was born in Cologne and studied at the HFF Munich, where he wrote and directed various short films including TOTES LAND, and JUPITER, that was shown at more than seventy film festivals worldwide. After graduating, he directed the six-part thriller series DECISION GAME for ZDFneo before adapting his short film into his debut feature film, JUPITER. Benjamin is an alumnus of Les Arcs Film School Village, the Cutting Edge Talent Camp at the Mannheim-Heidelberg Film Festival, and San Sebastian's NEST program. He currently lives and works in Berlin.

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS:

Int. Hofer Filmtage 2024 Förderpreis Neues Deutsches Kino, Critics Award, Bild-Kunst Award for Best Production design Preis Bestes Szenenbild

Fantasma Fantastic Fest 2024 Best International Film

Evolution! Mallorca Int. Film Festival 2024 Best Debut Feature

Sofia Int. Film Festival 2024 Young Jury Award

Etreum Film Festival 2024 Best SciFi Film, Best Director, Best Actor: Andreas Döhler

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19th @ GOETHE-INSTITUT

11:00 AM Screening of

GREETINGS FROM MARS | GRÜßE VOM MARS
LA PREMIERE | FREE FAMILY MATINEE

Dir. Sarah Winkenstette. Germany (2024) 85 min. DCP Projection. German/English with English Subtitles

Tom (Leo Kretschmer) is not your average ten-year-old. He doesn't like change, chaos or loud noises, but he loves space exploration, especially the planet Mars. He dreams of being the first human to travel to the red planet, although the color red upsets him. His life is structured, but if things become overwhelming, he puts on his space suit for protection and imagines he's exploring space. When his mother, Vera (Eva Löbau), has to travel to China for work, Tom and his siblings, Nina (Lilli Lacher) and Elmar (Anton Noltensmeier), are sent to spend the summer with their Grandparents, whom they barely know, in the countryside in Lunau. Such a disruption in his routine is a catastrophe for Tom. "If you can do Grandma and Grandpa," his mother assures him, "then you can definitely do Mars too." Equipped with a logbook, his laptop, and his siblings as his crew, Tom embarks on a mission to explore "planet Lunau" and understand Grandma and Grandpa, who seem to live by their own rules.

Based on Sebastian Grusnick and Thomas Möller's book of the same name, Filmmaker Sarah Winkenstette's multi-award-winning film is an intelligently crafted comedy about the importance of family and community and a thought-provoking portrait of an outsider whose uniqueness becomes his strength.

Sarah Winkenstette was born in 1980 in Rheda-Wiedenbrück. Following internships and traineeships at Medienfabrik Bertelsmann, and the RTL School of Journalism, she studied Film at the Cologne Academy of Media Arts (KHM). Her Graduation film KIDNAPPED (2011) has received numerous awards, including "Gyphon" at the Giffoni Film Festival. Since 2011 she has worked as a freelance director. Her debut feature film TOO FAR AWAY (2019) premiered in Los Angeles at German Currents 2020. Her second feature film, "Grüße vom Mars" premiered in German cinemas in May 2025.

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS:

Kristiansand International Children's Film Festival 2024 Best International Feature, Best European Youth Film

GOLDENER SPATZ Deutsches Kinder-Medien-Festival 2024 Best Actor

Cinepänz Youth Film Festival Köln 2024 Best Kid's Film, Winner Audience Award

Vienna International Children's Film Festival 2024 Winner Audience Award

International Young Audience Film Festival Ale Kino! 2024 Best Film - Intl. Jury

Filmtage Oberschwaben 2024 Best Children's & Youth Film

Smile International Film Festival for Children & Youth 2025 Best European Youth Film, Best Children's Film, Best Director

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19th @ GOETHE-INSTITUT

2:00 PM Screening of

**NEXT GENERATION SHORT TIGER 2025
US PREMIERE |SHORT FILM SHOWCASE**

Germany (2025), 103 min. Various Languages with English Subtitles

Presented by German Films and the German Federal Film Board (FFA), the 15th edition of this beloved annual showcase presents the year's most promising young directors and remarkable award-winning student short films from Germany. Selected by an expert Jury from the German film Industry: Actress Thea Ehre, Alexandra Gramatke (Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg) and Andreas Heidenreich (German Association of Municipal and Cultural Cinemas), NEXT GENERATION SHORT TIGER 2025 combines new talents – the NEXT GENERATION of German cinema – with the best German short films up to 7 minutes – the winners of the FFA's SHORT TIGER AWARD 2025. Representing Germany's diversity of forms, genres, and skillful filmmaking talent that international audiences have come to expect from German shorts, these deeply personal and universal stories confirm the notion that short film is an independent art form deserving of the big screen and the awareness of audiences worldwide.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19th @ GOETHE-INSTITUT

4:30 PM Screening of

SAD JOKES

WEST COAST PREMIERE

Dir. Fabian Stumm. Germany (2024) 96 min. Digital Projection. German/English/Italian/Swedish with English Subtitles

Set in present-day Berlin, writer-director-actor Fabian Stumm frames his tragicomical second feature as a series of autofictional vignettes, ranging from the touching to the absurd, that tell the story of Joseph (Stumm) and Sonya (Haley Louise Jones), close friends who are raising their young son, Pino, together. Joseph, a filmmaker, is working on a new idea for a project and has been struggling, for several years now, to move on from the breakup with his ex-boyfriend Marc (Jonas Dassler); while Sonya is suffering from severe bouts of depression that increasingly tear her out of her life and from Pino. When Sonya admits herself to a clinic to recover, Joseph struggles to juggle parenting, romantic possibilities, and his artistic ambitions.

Stumm's poignant portrayal of modern queer life and an artist's perseverance is at times absurdly funny and banal, hopeful and heartbreaking, and – like real life – sometimes all of these at once.

Fabian Stumm was born 1981 in Koblenz and studied acting at The Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute New York. He has appeared on stage at HAU Berlin, Münchner Kammerspiele, Volksbühne Berlin, The Kitchen New York, and Tate Modern London, among others. His film work includes LORE by Cate Shortland, BELA KISS: Prologue by Lucien Förstner, PRECIOUS IVE by Sarah Blaßkiewitz, and the Grimme-Award nominated series DRUCK. His films include BRUXELLES (2022), DANIEL (2022) and his feature-length debut BONES AND NAMES (2023). SAD JOKES premiered in 2024 at the Filmfest München.

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS:

German Film Awards 2025 Best supporting Actor

IFF Berlin 2025 German Film Critics Award, Best Actor

Filmfest München 2024 FIPRESCI-Award, Förderpreis Neues Deutsches Kino, Best Director

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19th @ GOETHE-INSTITUT

7:00 PM Screening of

**ANOTHER GERMAN TANK STORY
LA PREMIERE**

Dir. Jannis Alexander Kiefer. Germany (2024) 95 min. Digital Projection. German with English Subtitles

The sleepy East German village of Wiesenwalde has been in decline since the fall of the Berlin Wall. The only attraction is a fountain dedicated to composer Georg Philipp Telemann, who, according to legend, was cured of a serious illness by drinking the local water. But hope springs eternal: a Hollywood production company has chosen Wiesenwalde as the location for a World War II blockbuster. While Mayor Susanne Pauli (Meike Droste) hopes for a tourism boom, Journalist Bernt (Roland Bonjour) tries to land an interview with the film's star. As the villagers take advantage of the opportunity to chase their personal dreams, a sudden power outage and a missing tank risk ruining all their plans. Fiction and reality blur as the village navigates its collective history, legends, and personal truths. Kiefer's multi-award-winning debut feature is an absurdly captivating satire that intertwines past and present.

Jannis Alexander Kiefer studied Audiovisual Media in Berlin and has worked as a DoP and 2nd assistant director since 2011. In 2016 he started studying Directing at the Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF. His first-year film COMMENTS (2017) has screened at more than 80 festivals worldwide and won several awards, such as the FFA Short Tiger. His film EMPEROR (2019) premiered at the Hof FF and won the Bild-Kunst Jury Award. For his film MEETING (2020), he received the German Short Film Award. His latest film ANOTHER GERMAN TANK STORY (2024), premiered at the Filmfest München.

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS:

FBW 2025 Prädikat: besonders wertvoll / Of Exceptional Merit

Filmfest Bremen 2025 Jury Award Humor/Satire, Best Feature Film

FILMZ - Festival of German Cinema 2024 FILMZ-Special Award for Outstanding Achievement in Film – Sound Mixing

Biberacher Filmfestspiele 2024 Debüt-Biber

FIRST STEPS Awards 2024 Big Audience Award

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20th @ GOETHE-INSTITUT

7:00 PM Screening of

I WAS NINETEEN | ICH WAR 19 KONRAD WOLF @ 100.

Dir. Konrad Wolf. GDR (1967/1968) 119 min. Digital Projection. German and Russian with English Subtitles

April 1945: For 19-year-old Gregor Hecker, returning to his native Germany is not an easy task. Born in Cologne and raised in Moscow following his parents' emigration when he was eight, Gregor feels more Russian than German. Now a Red Army Lieutenant serving in a propaganda unit, Gregor's mission is to convince German soldiers and civilians to surrender. Gregor must come to terms with the notion that Germany is not only the land of his birth, but that the Germans are also his fellow countrymen. He returns not only as conqueror, but also one of the conquered. Through his interactions with other Germans, Gregor gradually comes to realize that not all Germans are guilty and that many are crucial to a peaceful post-war Germany. Drawing on Konrad Wolf's own experiences as a Red Army officer during the Second World War, Wolf's masterpiece, co-written by Wolfgang Kohlhaase, is a poetic exploration of the postwar dilemma of German identity and a powerful document about the search for a "usable" German past. A true landmark of postwar German cinema, *I was Nineteen* is considered one of the 100 most significant German films.

Special Screening on the occasion of Filmmaker Konrad Wolf's 100th Birthday, presented in cooperation with the Defa Film Library at UMass Amherst

Konrad Wolf was born in Hechingen, Germany, on October 20th, 1925. In 1933, his family emigrated to the Soviet Union. At the age of 18, he joined the Red Army and returned to Germany as a lieutenant in 1945. He studied directing at the Moscow Film School in 1949 and worked as an assistant director to Kurt Maetzig at the DEFA Studios in 1953. His first feature film was EINMAL IST KEINMAL (1955). His major films include: GENESUNG (1956), LISSY (1957), SONNENSUCHER (1958), STERNE (1959), DER GETEILTE HIMMEL (1964), ICH WAR NEUNZEHN (1967), DER NACKTE MANN AUF DEM SPORTPLATZ (1974), MAMA ICH LEBE (1977), and SOLO SUNNY (1980). From 1965, Wolf was president of the East German Academy of Arts until his death in 1982.

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS:

Art Prize of the Society for German-Soviet Friendship 1975

Halle 1969 Best Youth Film, Henrich-Greif-Award 1. Class

National Prize of the GDR 1968 National Prize 1. Class

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21st @ GARDENA CINEMA

10:00 AM Screening of

GREETINGS FROM MARS | GRÜSSE VOM MARS PRIVATE EVENT ONLY FOR REGISTERED SCHOOLS

Dir. Sarah Winkenstette. Germany (2024) 85 min. DCP Projection. German/English with English Subtitles.

*For school field trip requests, please contact:
Daniel Chaffey, Festival Coordinator: Daniel.chaffey@goeth.de*

About the Goethe-Institut Los Angeles:

The Goethe-Institut is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach. The institute promotes knowledge of the German-language abroad and fosters international cultural cooperation. The Goethe-Institut Los Angeles operates on a partnership basis. For individual projects, as for longer-term joint ventures, the Goethe-Institut connects with stakeholders in the cultural scene – institutions, organizations, companies, people in and from Southern California and Arizona, Germany, and other countries.

For more information, please visit: www.goethe.de/losangeles

Facebook: www.facebook.com/goetheinstitut.losangeles

Twitter: @gi_losangeles, and Instagram: @goetheinstitut_losangeles

About the American Cinematheque:

The American Cinematheque is a non-profit cultural organization whose mission is to celebrate the experience of cinema as a moving art form; we create spaces where both the public and members of the film industry come together as a community with the common language and love of film. Since it began screening films to the public in 1985, the American Cinematheque has provided diverse film programming and live in-person discussions and events with thousands of filmmakers and luminaries, presenting both new and repertory cinema to Los Angeles.

For more information, visit www.americancinematheque.com

For more information, images, film stills, and interview requests:

Daniel Chaffey, Festival Coordinator, Daniel.Chaffey@goethe.de

Luisa Rath-John, Festival Director, Luisa.Rath-John@goethe.de

Lubinka Falkenberg, Festival Assistant, Lubinka.Falkenberg.extern@goethe.de

The German Currents Film Festival 2025 is a co-production of the [Goethe-Institut Los Angeles](#) and the [American Cinematheque](#), with the support of The Friends of Goethe, [ELMA](#), [Condor](#), The [Austrian Consulate General in Los Angeles](#), [go-international](#), [Tupetz Wine Connection](#), [Paulaner USA](#), [Paulaner Sunset](#), [Villa Aurora & Thomas Mann House e.V.](#), the [German Film Office](#), our media partners [Deutsche Welle](#), [KPFK Radio](#), [Campus Circle](#), our educational outreach partners [Creating Creators](#), and in cooperation with the [German Consulate General in Los Angeles](#).

